

THE BIBLE WHAT IT SAYS

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INTRODUCTION

Colin Maine is Welsh but he is now settled in Australia. He was born in 1935 in South Wales in a “religious” family. His father was a Pentecostalist who believed in the Original Sin and believed that all new-born babes are black with sin. He believed quite literally in Hell and held that even those who lived in the Jungles of Africa and had never heard of Jesus would go to Hell.

Some men are born with a soul greater than the theology of their culture. Colin Maine is one of them. His sensitive mind could not make any sense out of these monstrous beliefs. As he grew and questioned them and reflected on them, he found that his father’s beliefs did not stand alone but formed part of a larger whole known as Christian theology or Christian religion. He began to question religion itself. He typified a whole class of intellectuals of his and preceding generations.

The Semitic religions have done this great disservice to the cause of the larger spiritual life. By offering an offensive theology leading to a cruel and fervent ethics of persecution of other people, they repel men and women of reason and sensitivity and bring the very concept of religion into disrepute. This accounts for the Rationalist Movement of Europe of the last two or three hundred years and its temper of distrust and even denial of all religion. The pioneers of this movement read their Bible closely and they discovered that it

abounded in brutal superstitions and preached degraded ethics and they, therefore, rejected it. But they carried their rejection of the Bible and Christianity to the rejection of religion itself with which they confused the former.

The West has provided a rationalist critique of Semitic religions; now the time has come when the East should also provide a spiritual critique. Such a critique will show that these religions violate not only ordinary reason and ethics but also the deeper truths of the Spirit. They lack larger charity. Their claim to exclusive revelations and favoured Sons or Nephews or Prophets of God is a make-believe. They have no Yoga, no methodology of inner exploration. They have merely certain fanatic beliefs, misguided zeal, and deluded ideas, useful for imperialist expansion but of no avail for inner growth. Their continuing oppression of other people for centuries is no chance happening. On the contrary, it is rooted in their false theology, in their shallow and narrow conception of the Godhead.

‘God creates man in his own images’ is true in a more fundamental sense. But its reverse is truer on a more practical level. More often than not, a man creates his God in his own image. A God carries with him the faults and virtues of his worshippers. The Semitic God, Jehovah or Allah, is jealous, wrathful, vengeful and ego-centric. He has “Chosen People”; but they are outnumbered by his ‘chosen enemies’. He images the impulses of his worshippers.

Such a God is not the God of Eastern spiritualities. In the language of the Gita, this God is a *tamas*-God, a *rajas*-God. He is a projection of a mind which is at a low level of purity, a mind which is characterized by *kama*, *krodha*, *moha* and

asmita, that is, a mind which is passionate, angry, deluded and egoistic.

The qualities which characterize the Semitic God also characterized their "Revelations."

Christianity was an artificial graft on the soil of Europe. Here we need not go into the question how it was foisted on its pagan people. But as Christianity triumphed, these people lost their Gods and their spiritual roots. Their contact with the East was snapped and for a thousand years they lived in isolation behind an intellectual Iron Curtain.

But now for some time things have been changing. Europe's spirit has been awakening. Reason has played a big role. Now the Western youths have also begun to seek spiritual fulfillment. The contact with the East has been restored and its influence is silently at work. In a certain sense, the East is going to the West in a big way; or rather, speaking more correctly, it is not itself going out but is being sought. The spirit of the Western youth is seeking a new dimension, and it finds itself naturally attracted by the *sanatana* or age-old wisdom of the East. The work is peaceful and silent. There are no armies of soldiers, no crusaders and preachers, no budget, no language studies, no paraphernalia of hired missionaries. In this work, the East claims nothing for itself, no empire, no earthly glory, not even spiritual leadership. In its teaching, it offers no ready-made salvation, no reach-me-down Saviours, no dogmas. Its message is simple. It merely says: "You are secretly divine. Know yourself in your own way; be open minded in your search; give up false dogmas that have poisoned your mind so long; your salvation is within you."

Colins Maine's present brochure is direct and down-to-earth. It avoids all scholarly clap-trap. It refuses to be entangled in superfluous intellectualizations. To the original edition of this brochure, he gave the title, *The Bible: An Evil Book*. From the title, it is obvious that he is not in the habit of beating about the bush and he loves to call a spade a spade. However, he does not like to be unjust; he quotes extensively from the Bible and allows it to speak for itself. After this he leaves it to the readers whether they would still like to describe it in a way different from his own. The Indian edition comes out under a different title, *The Bible: What It Says*. One should avoid any unnecessary offense.

On rare occasions, when Colin Maine makes his own comments, he does it in the spirit of freedom. For example, while discussing the Ten Commandments, he first gives facts and then makes his observations from the rational-ethical view-point. Others may not accept his view-point. A spiritualist critique, as we have pointed out, will view these commandments differently. The very first and most important of them are theological, and they are patently bigoted and false and nothing good can come out of them; and others, seemingly right, are wrong in their very approach. The Hindu scriptures teach that ethical life is not a matter of commandments, but a matter of inner growth. Higher ethics comes from a deeper vision and deeper inner sources of power. Our normal relations in an unawakened life are characterized by utility, hedonistic self-pursuit, casualness and personal convenience. But love and self-sacrifice, fidelity and fairness in mutual relations—parental, filial, conjugal, neighbourly—come from inner regeneration of life. These have to be cultivated, worked for. Here commandments offer no help; they merely breed hypocrisy

and perpetrate cruelty and exploitation. The great Confucian human relations come from a great inner, spiritual growth.

The value of Colin Maine's present book is in inverse proportion to its size. Many read the Bible and yet they read not. The reason is because their minds have been brainwashed and conditioned. They think that since the Bible is a scripture, it must be deep and lofty beyond their understanding. In fact, often enough, they even fail to see bare, naked facts which stare them in the face. Colin Maine's book will help them and restore their spontaneity of seeing. After that they will be able to exclaim, like the proverbial child in the story, that the 'king is naked', even when the adults were blackmailed into believing that he was clad in invisible garments. They would wonder how they could miss facts which stood out so prominently.

The author quotes mainly from the first five books of the Bible which, taken together, are known as the 'Pentateuch'. It constitutes the heart of the Bible. It also contains the Mosaic Law which Jesus said he had come to fulfil and from which Islam too borrowed heavily. It is here that we first meet Jehovah, the "Jealous" God of Judaism, who subsequently also became the God of Christianity and Islam. It is also here that we first meet the concepts of the "Chosen People" and an "exclusive Revelation." It is here that we find the foundations laid of all monolatrous religions with their leviathan God, monopolized Revelations, privileged fraternities and divinely ordained missions.

Some people see in Christianity a break from Judaism. That is a mistake. In fact, Christianity is the fulfillment of Judaism as the Apostles and the Evangelists and early Church

Fathers used to repeat. There is a deep affinity between the Old Testament and the New which, taken together, form the complete Bible. As St. Augustine truly but ominously observes: "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old is made manifest in the New."

In some ways, Christianity gave the Old Testament a new lease of life. While the Jewish scholars and Rabbis were trying to tame its excess through reinterpretation, Christianity took it over in all its exclusiveness and literalness. Similarly, the Christian God turned out to be more cruel at heart than the Judaic God. Jehovah of the Old Testament thundered a good deal and pitilessly smote his adversaries and very often even his own chosen people but that was the end of it all. The Christian God, on the contrary, pursued his enemies, the unbelievers, even beyond the grave and caused them to roast in eternal fire. The Jews had only *sheol*, an abode of the dead, and no proper Hell in the Christian sense of the term. The Hell of eternal punishment and fire was a Christian contribution which was later on adopted by Islam too in all the fullness of its vengeance.

Some of the readers of the present brochure may also have seen Colin Maine's other and equally useful brochure, *The Dead Hand of Islam*. The two are companion volumes and are very informative. They should get the widest possible circulation not only in India but also in other countries of the Third World, in Latin America, in Africa, and in Oceania where Christianity and, lately, also Islam have been creating havoc with local cultures. Christian and Islamic Imperialism are not specifically Hindu or Buddhist problems; they are problems for all national, and ancient, cultures and also for the growing humanity itself. Colin Maine's writings

will help the process of religious and spiritual decolonization through the peaceful method of information and deconditioning.

In the Indian edition, some footnotes have been added.

Ram Swarup

THE BIBLE: WHAT IT SAYS

Ronald Reagan, the President of the United States, and in control of weapons that could obliterate all life on earth, has stated of the Bible: “Within the covers of that single book, are contained all the answers, to all the problems, that we face today.” (*Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio*, 5.11.84).

The former President, Jimmy Carter, was a Born Again Christian.

Also, fundamentalist Christians, like Jerry Falwell, are enormously powerful. Falwell’s radio programmes are broadcast by 500 radio stations every day in America.

His ‘Old Time Gospel Hour’ is broadcast every week by 400 TV channels. (*Freethinker*, October, 1984).

It is therefore very important to find out what this book, the Bible, actually says.

The Bible God

First, the nature of the god they believe in. He is supposed to be a god of love.

If we examine the Bible—both Old and New Testaments—we find that the Bible god is more of a sadistic monster than a god of love.

If he were to appear on earth as a human being, he would most likely be incarcerated in a mental hospital as a dangerous psychopath.

Just for starters, he drowns all living creatures in a huge flood in Genesis (6/5-7).

Apparently he does it because “the wickedness of man was great in the earth.”

Is it possible to believe that everyone was wicked? Even the little children? And what about all the animals? It is impossible for them to act other than as their instincts direct them. Yet god drowns them all—children, new born babies, and helpless little animals.

God destroys completely the two cities of the plain, Sodom and Gomorah, all the inhabitants of the two cities, and what grew on the ground. (Genesis 19/24-25).

In Exodus (12/29) god kills *all* the firstborn of Egypt, because Pharaoh would not let the children of Israel go.

In Exodus (10/1), the Bible tells us that the reason Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go, is because god has hardened his heart so: “I might show these my signs before him.”

So god is himself responsible for the plight of his favoured people.

As usual, the Bible god kills innocent little children, who could not possibly be guilty of any offence.

In Cecil B. De Mille’s Bible Epics, the Jews are shown being harshly treated by the Egyptians, being made to drag huge stones, and being flogged with whips.

But we have evidence from the Bible itself that the Jews were well treated by the Egyptians.

In Exodus we read that the whole people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron and said to them: “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” (16/3).

Also in Numbers we read:

“Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you must also make yourself a prince over us? “ (16/13).

See Numbers 11/4-5 for more evidence of how well the Jews were treated by the Egyptians.

In Numbers 16/34-49 god kills 14,700 with a plague, merely because “they murmured against Moses”

In Numbers 21/6, god sends “fiery serpents” which bit many of the Jews, and many of them died.

Their offence? They “spoke against God and against Moses.”

In Numbers 16/28-35, god has some of the Jews swallowed up by the earth, merely because they “gathered themselves against Moses, and against Aaron.” Another 250, he got consumed by fire to show that they ‘have despised the Lord.”

In I Samuel 6/19 god smites 50,070 men merely because they “looked into the ark of the Lord.”*

The Voice of God

Listen to the voice of the Bible god, and see whether you think he is a god of love, or not:

“I will send wild beasts among you, which will rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number...” (Leviticus 26/22).

Then continuing, the Bible god says:

“Then will I also walk contrary to you, and I will punish you seven times for your sins.

“And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you, and ye shall be delivered into the hands of the enemy.”

Verses 28-33 of the same chapter read:

* This number of victims is according the to Authorized (King James) Version. The modern translations like to bring down the number, rather arbitrarily to 70

“Then will I walk contrary to you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

“And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall you eat.

“And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

“And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.

“And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

“And I will scatter you among the heathen, and I will draw the sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.”

There is more in the same vein, if you have a streak of sadism in you.

Or read Nahum (1/2-6):

“God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth, and is furious; the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies..... The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, all the world, and all that dwell therein.

“Who can stand before his indignation? And who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him”

In Deuteronomy 32/24-42 we find similar passages, in which the Bible god says:

“They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction; I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of the serpents of the dust.

“The sword without, and the terror within, shall destroy both the young man, and the virgin, and the suckling also with the man of gray hair.”

This is only up to verse 25. God raves on for another 17 verses. How very loving he is!

Note that verse 25 says that god will destroy the sucklings. These are the babies so small that they are still sucking at their mothers' breasts.

What would you think of a man, who went around killing new-born babies?

Death Penalty

The death penalty by stoning is given for a host of offences, sometimes trivial.

When people read the words “They Stoned Him’ they do not realize what is involved.

Rocks were hurled at the victim, until he, or she, became a bloody pulp, and the mass of flesh ceased to move.

This horror method of execution is still being carried out by the Moslems. According to the *Penguin History of Christianity* by R Bainton, “Mohammed was influenced by Hebrewism” So these atrocities, which are still being carried out in Arab countries, are due to the influence of the Bible.

The Bible advocates death penalty by stoning for:

1. Cursing one's parents (Exodus 21/17). This is also advocated by Jesus in Matthew 15/4
2. Sacrificing to another god. (Exodus 22/20)
3. Blasphemy. (Leviticus 24/16)
4. Breaking the Sabbath. (Exodus 35/2)
5. For not being a virgin. (Deuteronomy 22/21)
6. For straying near the tabernacle. (Numbers 1/51)
7. For not being circumcised. (Genesis 17/14)

8. For making perfume. (Exodus 30/38)
9. Adultery. (Leviticus 20/10)
10. Homosexuality. (Leviticus 20/13)

In some of these passages the Bible says that the offending person “shall be cut off from his people.” That this means the death penalty is made clear by Exodus 31/14.

Jesus in Matthew 5/17 endorses these laws with the words: “Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses, or the prophets.”

If the Bible were taken seriously, practically the entire population of the Western world would have to be put to death.

Ten percent of the population is homosexual.

Hardly anyone keeps the Sabbath these days: and it is Saturdays that are meant to be kept holy, not Sundays, and only one or two fundamentalist sects obey this commandment.

With our permissive society there are not many virgins around.

With cults from India being taken up by more and more people, many would have to be killed for “worshipping other gods.”

70% of babies are not now circumcised (Sydney Morning *Herald*, 7-11-84).

So if we really carried out the laws of Moses there would'nt be anyone left.

A Creed of Racism

The Jewish notion that they were the ‘Chosen People’ is no different to the Nazi doctrine that they were the ‘master race’.

The Old Testament Jews, according to the Bible, exterminated to the last infant, the tribes that lay round about them.

The only reason they were not able to wreck more havoc, is because they were a very backward and primitive people, and when they came up against such advanced nations as the Egyptians, or the Babylonians, they were easily defeated.

The Jews made so little impact on the Egyptians, that there is only one reference to them by that people, and that refers to Jehu.*

The following passage from the Bible will show that the Jews behaved no differently from the Nazis towards other tribes:

“When the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou.

“And when the Lord thy God shall deliver them before thee, thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them.

“Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

“For they will turn thy sons away from following me, that they may serve other gods, so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee utterly.

* Leonard Cottrell in his *Anvils of Civilization* states: “When Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem he had to import foreign workmen from Phoenicia.”

“But thus shall ye deal with them: Ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.” (Deuteronomy 7/1-5).

Or read this:

“But of the cities of the these people which the Lord thy God gives thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breathes, but thou shalt utterly destroy them.” (Deuteronomy 20/16-17). According to the Bible, the Jews are entitled to claim all the land from the Nile to the Euphrates (Genesis 15/18).

The Jews refused an offer of territory in East Africa, in the early years of this century, due to their religious attachment to Palestine.

The founder of Zionism, Hertzl, was greatly distressed when the Jews knocked back this offer, given to them by the British.

If they had taken it, many Jews would have been able to find a refuge from Hitler, during the 1930s.

The conflict between the Jews and the Arabs, could lead to World War III, so that the Bible might be responsible for ending all life on this planet.

The Treatment of Women

The Old Testament treated women abominably.

In Genesis 19, Lot offers his daughters to a mob of homosexuals, in order to serve two ‘angels’ who have visited him, with the words: “Do with them what is good in your eyes.”

In Genesis 19/30-38, Lot has incest with his two daughters.

In Judges 19/3-30, a man has a visitor, and as is the case with Lot, he is besieged by a mob of homosexuals, who want

to have sex with him. As in the case of Lot, the women is sacrificed. In the words of the Bible:

“And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, say my brethren, nay, I pray you do not act so wickedly; seeing that this man is come unto my house, so do not do this folly.

“Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them will I bring out now, and ye ravish them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this man, do not so vile a thing.

“But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to spring, they let her go.

“Then came the woman in the dawning of the day, and fell down at the door of the house where her lord was, till it was light.

“And her lord rose up in the morning, and opened the door of the house and went to go his way; and beheld the woman, his concubine was fallen down at the door of the house, and her hands were upon his threshold.

“And he said to her, up, and let us be going. But none answered. Then the man took her up upon an ass, and the man rose up and got him to his place.

“And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold of his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into 12 pieces and sent her into all the coasts of Israel.”

In Genesis 16/1-7 Abram's wife, Sarai, was barren, so she gives him her 'maid' for breeding purposes. But when the maid Hagar has a child, Sarai is annoyed because she feels despised; so, with Abram's permission, she turns Hagar out into the wilderness.

It is sickening to see how the Jews and Christians are in that they use the word 'maid' when quite obviously, the real word they should use is "slave". And they are not particularly well treated slaves either, as we shall see, when we come to the section on slavery.

In Genesis 38/1-26, Judah, the fourth son of Jacob, has sex with his daughter-in-law, Tamar, unknowingly. She asks for a pledge from him. Later on, when she is pregnant, he sees her, and does not recognize her. He wants to burn her as a harlot, because she is with child.

He spares her life, when she produces the pledge, realizing that he is responsible for her pregnancy.

Apparently, if she had not had the foresight to ask for a pledge, or if she had become pregnant to another man, she would have been burnt alive.

In the book of Numbers 31/1-18 Moses sends his soldiers to kill all the Midianites.

The soldiers kill all the men, but spare the animals, the women, and the children.

Moses was outraged by this act of mercy and says: "Have ye saved all the women alive?..... Now therefore kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him, but all the women children, who have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves." (Numbers 31/15-18).

The great American writer Mark Twain says of this passage:

"The heaviest punishment of all was meted out to persons, who could not by any possibility have deserved so horrible a fate: the 32,000 virgins.†

† The number is given in the Bible itself. (Numbers 31/35)

“Their naked privacies were probed to make sure they had the hymen intact. After this humiliation, they were sent away from the land that had been their home, to be sold into slavery; the worst of slaveries; bed slavery; to excite lust and satisfy it with their bodies; slavery to any buyer, be he gentlemen, or be he coarse and filthy ruffian.” (*Letters from the Earth*)††

Yet fundamentalist Christians claim to base their sexual morality on the Bible, and the laws laid down by this man Moses, who gives little girls to his soldiers for their sexual pleasure.

Another example of the kind of ethics found in the Bible, can be seen in Genesis 34/1-19.

Dinah, daughter of Jacob by Leah, is ‘defiled’ by a Hivite man. As we have seen, the Jews were in no position to take a high moral attitude about this, as they themselves had no compunction about ‘defiling’ women of other tribes.

Anyway, the Hivite man loves her and wants to marry her. The Jews insist that before this can happen, every male of the Hivite tribe be circumcised.

This Hivites agree, but this does not satisfy the Jews. In the words of the Bible:

“And it came to pass, on the third day, when they were sore, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s bretheren, took each man his sword, and came upon the city boldly, and slew all the males.

“And they slew Hamor, and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem’s house and went out.

†† Mark Twain died in 1910, but the *Letters* were suppressed by his daughter, Clara Clemens Samossoud, for a long time for their irreverent tone. They were published half a century later by Harper and Row, New York.

“The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister.

“And they took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which was in the city, and that which was in the field.

“And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that was in their house.” (Genesis 34/25-29).

Women Abandoned

In Ezra 10/2-3 we read:

“We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them....”

Feminists will be interested in this passage:

“And if a man sell his daughter to be a maid-servant, she shall not go out as the menservants do” (Exodus 21/7)†

Or this passage:

“When thou goest forth to war against thine enemies, and the Lord thy God hath delivered them into thine hands, and thou hast taken them captive, and seest among the captives a beautiful woman, and hast a desire unto her... then shalt thou go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife. And it shall be, if thou have no delight in her, then shall thou let her go whither she will.” (Deuteronomy 21/10-14).

† A modern translation is: “If a man sells his daughter as slave, she is not to be set free, as male slaves are. If she is sold to someone who intends to make her his wife, but he doesn’t like her, then she is to be sold back to her father.”

Eve

According to Christian dogma, Eve was responsible for the fall of man. Because of this ridiculous fable women have been denigrated by the Church during the last 2000 years.

The Church has taught that the reason women had to endure the pain of childbirth, was due to Eve eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

It says so in ‘god’s word’ Genesis 3/16:

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow shalt thou bring forth children and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

In the last century, the Christian clergy opposed the use of anasthetics in childbirth, because of this text.

It was only when Queen Victoria had anasthetics for the birth of one of her children, that they became widely used.

The words “he shall rule over thee’ have been used to justify the oppression of women during the last 2000 years.†

Slavery

I remember seeing a Bible epic in which one of the Jews says: “We want to free the slaves.”

In actual fact the Jews had slaves themselves, and they were not particularly well treated slaves either.

As we have seen, slaves could be used for sexual amusement or for breeding purposes, like a brood mare.

In pagan Greece, the slaves had jobs in the police force, and in other important occupations.

The Spartans used to say of the Athenians that they could not tell the slaves from the free men.

† For information on texts in the New Testament, which denigrate women, see Michael Class’s excellent booklet *The Bible: Horror and Humbug*.

Jewish slaves did not have such privileges.

In Exodus 21/20 we read:

“And if a man smite his servant, or his maid, with a rod, and if he die under his hand, he shall surely be punished.”

Notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished, for he is his money.

In Exodus 21/6 it says of slaves:

“Then shall his master bring him unto the judges, he shall bring him to the door post, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and *he shall serve him forever.*” (author’s emphasis).

Under the laws of Hamurabi—which pre-dates the laws of Moses—a slave had to be released after four years. So the Jews were backward even by the standards of their times.†

The Ten Commandments

One platitude that is often mouthed, is that if only the ten commandments were adhred to everything would be well, and men would live in peace.

Having read through the ten commandments. I could see good in only 3 of them, and 2 of these are broken by the very man, Moses, who gave them to us and the other, ‘thou shall not kill’ is broken by both Moses, and god, as we have already seen.

Two of them are bad and the rest are irrelevant.

Let us examine them one by one.

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

† According to the Jewish law, if a man bought a fellow-Hebrew slave, he served him for six years. In the seventh he was set free. But if he said he loved his master and wanted to stay, he became a slave for ever.

This commandments is, in my opinion, positively evil as it brought religious intolerance into the world.

As we have already seen, Moses ordered the death penalty for worshipping other gods.

The pagan Greeks, and Romans ere very tolerant in religious matters, and only persecuted religions that practiced human sacrifice, such as the Druids, or the worshippers of Moloch.

The reason the early Christians were persecuted was because of their intolerant attitude to other religions. The altar of Cybele (Rhea) at Pessinus was overturned almost in the presence of the pagan Emperor, Julian (A.D. 361-363), according to Gibbon in his *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.*

The Christian converts used to invade the pagan temples, smashing the images of the gods, and sometimes insulting the worshippers.†

Paganism was also superior to the three monotheistic religions, in that it had female gods. This enhanced the status of women.

The second commandment reads:

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in the heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”

* Destroying other people's temples comes naturally to Christianity. Even before it was adopted by the Roman Emperor, Constantine (SD 312-337), it engaged in this practice. Not only the pagans but even an Indian colony settled in the canton of Jaron on the upper Euphrates suffered at their hands. The Indians had built two temples with the images of deities, eighteen and twenty-two feet high. St. Gregory the illuminator (240-332 A.D.) destroyed them in A.D. 304, according to the Syrian writer, Zenob.

† For more information on the subject, see the piece by the historian Lecky in the author's *Anti-Christian Writings*.

What on earth is wrong with statues, or ornaments, or paintings? If this commandment had been taken seriously, we would not have the great works of art of Michaelangelo, or Leonardo da Vinci, or the hundreds of other great artists that have produced work to uplift the human spirit during the last 2000 years.

At one time there was fierce strife between those who wanted to take this commandment seriously, and those that did not.

Luckily for the human race the latter won out over the former.

The Roman Catholic Church does not seem to take this commandment at its face value.

In verse 3 of Exodus 20, where we find the ten commandments, we read that the Bible god is jealous.

This is a contemptible emotion, and to imagine the creator of a vast universe being jealous, is beyond belief.

In the same verse we read that god visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

To punish children for their parent's faults is utterly immoral, but to punish not only the children, but their children, and their children's children, indicates a god of appalling vindictiveness.

The third commandment reads:

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

This god is so tyrannical that one cannot even mention his name.

The fourth commandment reads:

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”

The emphasis is on the word ‘holy’. There is nothing wrong with having a holiday once a week, but the way in which this commandment is interpreted, is that one should not spend the Sabbath enjoying oneself, but worshipping the bully in the sky.

As we have seen the death penalty is given for breaking the Sabbath.

One Jewish sect, the Essence, were not even supposed to defecate on the sabbath, and in the *Sydney Morning Herald's Weekend Magazine* of 15.02.84, it is reported that orthodox Jews cannot switch on lights, or watch TV, cannot discuss business, or use their cars.

I used to work as a postman in Cyncoed, the Jewish part of Cardiff, and some of the Jews used to ask me in to light the gas for them.

How they switched the gas off is a mystery. Perhaps that's not considered work, or may be they leave it on till the next day.

In Israel, orthodox Jews have been trying to stop lifts from operating on a Sunday, and as they hold the balance of power in the Knesset, they have great influence in Israel.

Orthodox Jews also want to stop the Israeli airline from flying on the Sabbath.

When I was a boy in Wales, Sundays were a time of unutterable gloom. Everything was closed, and the worst crime one could commit was ‘playing games on a Sunday’, and my parents used to take away toys from my sister, and my brothers, and myself.

I was so brainwashed with this idea, that when another boy persuaded me to go to the pictures on a Sunday, after we had moved to Devon, and where they were less religious, I fully expected the roof of the cinema to fall on my head.

In one of Mark Twain's books, a group of boys swear an oath "not to murder anyone on a Sunday". So it will be seen that this commandment is a negative one, and utterly stupid.

"Honour thy father and thy mother", is another commandment.

But what if one's father is a drunken bully? Should you honour him then? What ones mother is a nagging shrew? Should one honour her then?

If they are decent people, children will automatically love and honour them, and one will not need any commandment to do so.

"Thou shalt not kill," is the next commandment.

This would be more impressive if the Bible was not full of divinely sanctioned killing, as we have seen.

The next commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery", is a matter for debate. Some people think it is wrong for one person to regard another as a piece of property, and many believe in free love. The poet Shelley put it in these words:

True love in this, differs as gold from clay.

That to divide is not to take away.

"Though shalt not steal", is the eighth commandment.

As with the commandment about killing, this would be more impressive if the Bible was not full of theft by the Old Testament Jews.

Not only did they steal from the other tribes that lived around them, in most cases, they massacred the owners of the property they stole.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor", is the next commandment.

I cannot see anything wrong with this commandment.

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour’s” is the last commandment.

Our whole Capitalist society is based on covetousness, and we are constantly made to covet cars, houses, swimming pools, and many other things.

Many of those who claim to be Christians, are the most faithful believers in the Capitalist system.

Men of God

Most of the Biblical men of god are murderers, or would-be murderers.

The only one with any decency is Solomon, and he is the least religious, and most worldly of the people in the Bible.

Abraham

Abraham is prepared to sacrifice his only son to the Bible god. (Genesis 22/1-13). What sort of man is it that could conceive of a god who would demand such a sacrifice?

Moses

We have already seen what sort of man Moses was in the barbaric laws he laid down for Jews, and by this massacre of little children. In Exodus 32/27 Moses says to his soldiers:

“And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay, every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

“And the children of Levi did according to the word of

Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three Thousand men”.

Joshua

In Joshua 10/40-41 we read:

“So Joshua smote all the country of the hills, and of the south, and of the vale, and of the springs, and all their kings: he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the Lord God of Israel commanded.”

Similar massacres by Joshua are described in Joshua 10/30, 32,33,35,37,39 and in other passages.

Jephthah

In Judges II/30 we read:

“And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said if thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands,

“Then it shall be, that whatsoever commeth forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord’s, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

“So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them, and the Lord delivered them into his hands.

“And he smote them from Aroer, till thou come to Minnith, twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter.”

In verse 39 it relates that Jephthah “actually does sacrifice his daughter to the ‘god of love’.

David

In II Samuel 21/1-9 David hangs seven men in order to stop a famine.

See also I Samuel 18/27 for another massacre by David.

In II Samuel 8/4 David “houghed (crippled) all the chariot horses”.

In II Samuel 12/31 we read of David:

“And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brick-kiln: and thus did he do unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.”

Jehu

In II Kings 10/11 we read :

“So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, and he left him none remaining”.

In II Kings 10/19-25 Jehu entices the priests of Baal to a meeting, promising that he will serve Baal.

When he gets them there he has his soldiers massacre them all.

There are other accounts of these ‘men of god’ massacring entire populations, including Samson, and Saul.

The Prophets

Though the prophets did not have an army to back them up, there is every indication that they would have killed people if they had half a chance.

Elija

He is one of the prophets who actually gets to do some killing.

In I Kings 18/40 we read:

“And Elija said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal, let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elija brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.”

Samuel

In 1 Samuel 15/33 we read the words:

“And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal”.

Hosea

In Hosea 13/16 we read the words:

“.... their infants shall be dashed to pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.”

In the psalm which begins ‘By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion’ we have the words: “Happy shall be he, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones”. (Pslams 137/9)*

The New Testament

The New Testament is even worse than that; it teaches the doctrine of hell—everlasting torture in burning fires.

This is taught by Jesus himself in many references. If you want to find out more about this refer to my other booklet, *The Unpleasant Personality of Jesus Christ*.†

* This Psalm along with several others expressing such sentiments is included in the *The Book of Common Prayer* of the Church of England. It is sung in the evening of the 28th day of every month.

† Books by Colin Maine

1. Anti-Christian Writings, price 50 cents
2. The Unpleasant Personality of Jesus Christ, 10 cents
3. The Dead Hand of Islam, 20 cents

All the above books and other literature on the same subject are available at 58 Regent St. Chippendale, NSW, 2008, Australia. Booklist sent on request.